

5/15/02

FACT SHEET

FINAL REGULATION TO REDUCE TOXIC AIR POLLUTANTS FROM THE CELLULOSE PRODUCTS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

TODAY'S ACTION

- C The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is today issuing a final regulation to reduce emissions of toxic air pollutants from cellulose products manufacturing facilities. These facilities manufacture products such as rayon, cellophane, cellulose food casing, cellulosic sponges, and cellulose ethers. Toxic air pollutants, or air toxics, are those pollutants known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health problems. Air toxics are released during the manufacturing of these cellulose products.
- C Today's final regulation covers vent emissions from all processes used in the manufacturing of these cellulose products. EPA also is including requirements for the reduction of emissions from wastewater, storage vessels, and equipment leaks.
- C The final regulation will apply only to those cellulose products manufacturing facilities considered "major" sources of air toxics. A major source emits 10 or more tons a year of a single air toxic, or 25 tons a year of a combination of air toxics.
- C The regulation will affect approximately 13 cellulose products manufacturing facilities, plus any similar facilities built in the future.
- C EPA developed today's final regulation in close partnership with major stakeholders, including industry representatives and state and local environmental agencies.

BENEFITS AND COST

- C Today's final regulation will reduce emissions of carbon disulfide, carbonyl sulfide, toluene, ethylene oxide, methanol, methyl chloride, propylene oxide, and other air toxics from cellulose products manufacturing facilities. Adverse health effects from these air toxics include: chronic health disorders, such as problems with the central nervous and reproductive systems; and acute health disorders, such as narcotic effects and irritation of eyes, throat, and mucous membranes. Three of the air toxics that will be reduced have been classified as probable or possible human carcinogens.
- C Today's final regulation will reduce air toxic emissions from cellulose products manufacturing facilities by about 1,700 tons annually. In addition, today's final regulation will reduce emissions of hydrogen sulfide by 450 tons from current levels.

- C The total annualized cost of the final regulation, when fully implemented in 2010, is estimated to be \$9,700,000 for the entire industry. This includes the cost of installing add-on control devices, and the cost of monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting.

BACKGROUND

- C The Clean Air Act of 1990 requires EPA to identify categories of industry known as, source categories, that emit one or more of 188 listed air toxics. A “major source” of toxic air pollutants emits 10 tons or more per year of a single air toxic or 25 tons or more per year of a combination of air toxics.
- C For any facility identified as a “major source,” the Act requires EPA to develop standards that restrict emissions to levels consistent with the lowest-emitting (also called best-performing) plants.

WHAT THE RULE REQUIRES

General

- C Today’s final regulation contains emission limits and work practice standards that limit the amount of air toxics that regulated cellulose products manufacturing facilities may emit.
- C In most cases, the emission limits and work practice standards are as stringent for existing facilities as they are for new facilities.
- C Emission testing, compliance demonstrations, material balances, and monitoring will be required to demonstrate compliance with the standard.

Emission Standards

- C Today’s final standards consist of emission limits requiring a percent reduction of emissions from uncontrolled emissions levels for process vents and storage vessels. Facilities will be required to reduce the emissions by certain percentages, based on the type of product being produced. The reduction requirements range from 25 percent for cellulose food casings to 99 percent for cellulose ethers.
- C For equipment leaks at cellulose ether facilities, EPA is requiring a standard to change work practices.
- C For wastewater, EPA is requiring a limit on air emissions and changes to work practices.

- C EPA also is providing four alternative standards for reducing emissions from carbon disulfide storage vessels. Manufacturers will have the option to (1) install a nitrogen system for unloading and storing the carbon disulfide, (2) reduce unloading and storage emissions by 83 percent using other methods, such as venting to a control device, (3) overcontrol process vent emissions by 0.14 percent, or (4) install a nitrogen system for unloading carbon disulfide and also overcontrol process vent emissions by 0.045 percent.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- C To download the final rule from EPA's home page on the World Wide Web, go to <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/>.
- C For more information about this final regulation, contact William Schrock of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5032.
- C EPA's Office of Air and Radiation home page on the Internet contains a wide range of information on the air toxics program and many other air pollution programs and issues. The address is: <http://www.epa.gov/oar>.